

PLAST was founded in Ukraine in 1911. Because of the Soviet Union's rule over Ukraine after World War II, PLAST was eradicated from its native land. Post-World War II immigrants brought their Ukrainian ancestry with them to the free world and build up PLAST wherever they settled. The city of Cleveland was fortunate to have a chapter of PLAST develop and flourish in the area.

Now, three generations later, PLAST is still nurturing its youth in the Greater Cleveland area. The organization is dedicated to developing character, citizenship, and ethnic pride. They also share a profound love of nature and express this through their many services around the community. As important as anything, PLAST also values and teaches leadership qualities among American youth of Ukrainian ancestry. The honor and integrity the youth are developing through PLAST will stay with them throughout their life as they become the leaders of our community.

I urge my fellow colleagues to please join me in recognizing the fiftieth anniversary of such an honorable organization as the Cleveland chapter of PLAST, Ukrainian American Youth Organization and wish them many more years of growth and success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 2, 1999

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, on October 18, 1999, I was unavoidably detained and was not able to vote on the following measures:

I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote 505;

I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote 506;

I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote 507; and

I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote 508.

Once again, Mr. Speaker, on November 1, 1999, I was unavoidably detained and was not able to cast my vote on the following measures:

On rollcall vote 550 I would have voted "yea";

Also on rollcall vote 551 I would have voted "yea"; and

Lastly on rollcall vote 552, I would have voted "yea."

INTRODUCTION OF SMART KIDS—SAFE KIDS ACT

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 2, 1999

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a crucial piece of legislation designed to prevent abuse and abduction of our nation's children.

As the mother of an eight-year-old, I know all too well the efforts we go through as parents to keep our children safe and protected. We worry about the times children may be unsupervised or find themselves in unfamiliar situations.

In my district, there is a civic group called Smart Kids—Safe Kids that works to educate our children about the signs of abuse and who to talk to about abuse. Schools and community groups are trying to fight back against the horrors of child abuse and abduction, but unfortunately, they just do not have the resources they need to do so effectively.

The Smart Kids—Safe Kids Act, which I am introducing with my Republican colleague KEVIN BRADY, will make specific child safety programs eligible for federal grants already available to school based organizations. These programs will teach students from preschool through grade 12 the skills to identify and cope with potentially dangerous and threatening situations. And it gives students guidance to encourage them to seek advice for anxiety, threats of abuse and actual abuse.

When our children know the rules, they are smart kids; and Smart Kids can be Safe kids.

INTRODUCTION OF SMART KIDS—SAFE KIDS ACT

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 2, 1999

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to announce that over 30 members will join Congresswoman ELLEN TAUSCHER and myself in introducing the Smart Kids—Safe Kids Act. This bipartisan legislation is designed to help prevent the abuse and abduction of children.

In every city in every congressional district across the nation, our children are being led into harms way. While a majority of child abductions are by non-custodial parents, many are not. And helping prevent these kind of tragedies from occurring in the future is something we should all work towards. Unfortunately, this is a threat that knows no boundaries and can happen anytime.

For example, on September 12, 1995, in Conroe, Texas, 12-year-old Samuel McKay Everett was lured from home by a family friend on the pretext that his mother and father had been in an awful accident. McKay was then forced into the trunk of a car and driven 300 miles to Louisiana. Tragically, McKay was brutally murdered. Since the time of McKay's abduction, I have worked with his family and friends to help prevent this type of tragedy from happening again.

Smart Kids/Safe Kids will amend the Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act to help make specific safety programs available to our children. It will authorize grants for age-appropriate, developmentally based, or community oriented safety programs for all students, from preschool level through grade 12, that address prevention and education of child abuse and abduction. These programs will focus on teaching students the skills to identify and cope with potentially dangerous and threatening situations. They will also provide guidance to students that encourages them to seek advice for anxiety, threats of abuse, or actual abuse and to confide in a trusted adult regarding an uncomfortable or threatening situation.

We can arm our children with effective tools to avoid potentially dangerous situations. When our children know the rules, they are

smart kids; and Smart Kids can be Safe Kids. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

TRIBUTE TO TUN PETE PANGELINAN

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 2, 1999

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Pedro Muna Pangelinan, better known as Tun Pete of Yona, Guam. Tun Pete passed away on October 25, 1999 at the age of 86. During his life time, he experienced many events in Guam's history and he served his island community and family in ways which bring honor and dignity to the name Tun Pete.

Tun Pete lived a simple existence which was steeped in his personal pride in the Chamorro way of life. He understood that being Chamorro was not a slogan or just a matter of personal identity, but was part of a long cultural tradition which needed to be nurtured, practiced and passed on to future generations. During the course of his life, he became a master trapmaker, accomplished and creative weaver and a cultural teacher of the generations which came after him. While the younger people were more schooled, Tun Pete demonstrated that he was much wiser and more knowledgeable about many important things in life.

Tun Pete became a legend in Guam through his ability to make bamboo traps for shrimp in Guam's rivers and streams and through his creative application of coconut leaf weaving techniques passed down in Guam for generations. Tun Pete took the craft of weaving to new creative expressions as he made baskets for Easter egg hunts, center pieces and chandeliers for christenings and weddings. He even made them for the occasional political event for candidates he felt close to and I am especially grateful and honored for the courtesies he extended to me.

Tun Pete's abilities were eventually recognized by the people of Guam and he became a teacher in the Chamorro Language and Culture program and demonstrated his talents to students at the Guam Community College and the University of Guam. The expertise and talent of this quiet, unassuming gentleman who worked as a custodian at M.U. Lujan Elementary School finally received the acclamation he so richly deserved. He received the Governor's Art Award in 1992 for life time achievement and he wove all of the hats used by the Guam Governor's Youth Band in President Carter's inaugural parade in 1977.

Tun Pete also became recognized as a leader for our manamko's (senior citizens) in Guam. He participated in community meetings, spoke out for justice for Guam's World War II generation, spoke out for fairness and respect for the manamko'. He was elected Rai (king) of the May 1994 celebration of Senior Citizen's month in recognition of his popularity and advocacy.

The island of Guam, the people of Yona, my family will all miss Tun Pete enormously. He demonstrated that personal dignity can overcome handicaps in life that few of us will ever have to deal with. He was a personal inspiration to me, my wife Lorraine and to countless children in Guam.